

**CHAPTER NO. 514**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2197**

**By Representatives McDonald, Gresham**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2212**

**By Senator Graves**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54, Chapter 1, Part 1, relative to vandalism of highway structures.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 54-1-134.

(a)

(1) It is an offense for any person who is not authorized to construct or repair a highway structure to knowingly carve upon, write, paint or otherwise mark upon, or in any manner destroy, mutilate, deface, mar, steal or remove any highway bridge, overpass, tunnel, fence, wall, traffic control device, sign or other public highway structure or building.

(2) A violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(b)

(1) Any person who reports information to a law enforcement officer that leads to the apprehension and conviction of a person for a violation of this section shall receive a reward of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The county where the conviction occurs shall provide the reward money from the proceeds of the fines collected under the provisions of this act.

(2) The proceeds from the fines imposed for violations of this section shall be collected by the respective court clerks and then deposited in a dedicated county fund. Such fund shall not revert to the county general fund at the end of a fiscal year but shall remain for the vandalism enforcement rewards established in subdivision (b)(1).

(3) Each county shall expend the funds generated by the fines provided for in this section by appropriation for the vandalism enforcement rewards. Excess funds, if any, may be expended for litter control programs on adoption of an appropriate resolution by the county legislative body.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: April 5, 2004



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2004



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR